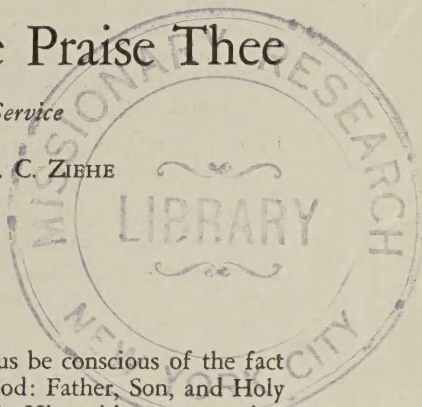


NOV 15 1940

Let All the People Praise Thee

A Thankoffering Service

PREPARED BY MRS. H. C. ZIEHE



PRELUDE

LEADER: As we open this service, let us be conscious of the fact that we are in the presence of our God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and that we are here to worship Him with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.

HYMN: When All Thy Mercies, O My God. A. L. C. Hymnal 591.

RESPONSIVE READING: Leader and Congregation.

LEADER: These words of the Psalmist call us and summon us.
"Let the people praise Thee, O God; let ALL the people praise Thee."

CONGREGATION: In obedience to this call we see in our Church not only the congregation as such, but also the children, the youth, the men, and the women, banded together to praise God in worship and in work.

LEADER: Just before His ascension our Savior said, "Go ye therefore and make disciples of ALL the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you."

CONGREGATION: Our Church has set her heart to bring the Good News to a portion of India and New Guinea; and the Women's Missionary Federation has asked for, received, and accepted an honorable share in this venture of faith.

LEADER: In answer to the question, "Who is my neighbor?" Jesus told the touching story of the Good Samaritan, and ended it by saying, "Go thou and do likewise."

CONGREGATION: Following a motherly urge, the Women's Missionary Federation today sponsors the Good Samaritan work among the people of both these foreign missions. We build, equip, and maintain hospitals, and so relieve and save many a life from the dread diseases of the tropics, from the curse of established heathen practices.

LEADER: Our Savior said, "I have come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

CONGREGATION: With a prayer that the Christ may live not only *within* its own members, but also *through* them, the Women's Missionary Federation reaches out into the foreign field to nurture schools where mind, heart, and hands are taught the ways of Christian life, and the simple arts of Christian civilization

LEADER: A serious warning was spoken by the Lord's apostle in the words, "If any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."

CONGREGATION: Mindful of this word, the Women's Missionary Federation is greatly concerned over the welfare of our fellow citizens sent to serve in those distant lands: our industrial, educational, medical, and Gospel missionaries and their families. Accordingly, we sponsor the sending of many tools and supplies, clothing and household furnishings, and personal gifts, and little niceties that help relieve the strain and stress of the great burden which the missionary families bear.

HYMN: Spread, O Spread, Thou Mighty Word. A. L. C. Hymnal 108.

LEADER: The reader of the Gospel story can not help but note the frequency of such statements as these: "Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee," "And He came again to His own city." Quite evident is the fact that the Savior spent much time and effort in His homeland, among His fellow Galileans.

CONGREGATION: Following in the footsteps of our Savior our Women's Missionary Federation, contrary to the general opinion, cares also for the needs of the homeland. Many a mission congregation is able to provide a parsonage for its pastor because the Women's Missionary Federation has made possible a loan through the Parsonage Building Fund. And many sons

and daughters of our congregations find accommodations at our Church colleges more pleasant because the Women's Missionary Federation has made them so.

LEADER: The attention of the reader of the Old Testament is often caught by the expression, "the stranger within thy gates," and his interest is aroused by the instructions given there for the charitable consideration of those "strangers."

CONGREGATION: Today our congregations are growing more conscious of "the strangers within our gates:" the negro, the Mexican, and representatives of other racial groups. To a great extent this is due to the fact that our Women's Missionary Federation has provided information on the subject through reading and study groups. Moreover, every parsonage, school, and chapel in our expanding Mexican mission field in Texas has been erected with funds supplied by the Women's Missionary Federation. A lively interest is shown also in the colored mission work of the Church in the South and East of our land.

LEADER: In one of our favorite hymns we sing of the obligation of the Christian Church toward world-wide mission work:

"Give of thy sons to bear the message glorious;
Give of thy wealth to speed them on their way;
Pour out thy soul for them in prayer victorious;
And all thou spendest, Jesus will repay."

CONGREGATION: Conscious of that obligation, the members and friends of our local Women's Missionary Society are gathered here to lay their annual Thankoffering on His altar, that the Christ may accept and use it in these great service projects — His kingdom projects and ours.

LEADER: "Let the people praise Thee, O God; let ALL the people praise Thee."

CONGREGATION: Christ, look kindly upon the praise and thanksgiving rendered by our Church's worshipping Marys and busy Marthas. Sustain the interest of those so serving Thee. Stir up those who have not yet joined their hearts and hands with others in this Christian privilege. Add Thy blessing, with its power to multiply, to this our Thankoffering. Use it in Thy service in our homeland and on foreign shores.

LEADER AND CONGREGATION: "Let Thy work appear unto Thy servants, and Thy glory unto their children. And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us; and establish Thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish Thou it."

HYMN: We Give Thee But Thine Own. A. L. C. Hymnal 252.

PRESENTATION OF THANKOFFERING BOXES: (*Accompanied by the strains of soft music, let those who have boxes come forward to deposit them on a table where a cross and lighted candles may form the center or background.*)

PRAYER: By the Pastor.

HYMN: From Greenland's Icy Mountains. A. L. C. Hymnal 100.
(*Care should be exercised not to sing this as "that's an old song, we know that." Instead, sing it in "spirit and in truth." The following hymns will also be found suitable: O Zion, Haste! Thy Mission High Fulfilling, A. L. C. Hymnal 102, or The Morning Light Is Breaking, A. L. C. Hymnal 104.*)

THE BENEDICTION.

THE DOXOLOGY.

NOTE: Many societies arrange for a distribution of new Thank-offering boxes immediately upon the deposit of the old ones. Others have found that there is less confusion and delay if such a distribution is made at the close of the service. This advantage too has been found in the latter arrangement: ladies who did not have a Thankoffering box in the previous year feel more free to ask for or to accept one when they are distributed at the close of the service.

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